

Application No. 10/660,028
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 4, and 10 and 12, respectively.

In addition, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the second unit is directly attached to the second casing member (opening/losing cover) so as to be movable by a predetermined amount with respect to the second casing member (opening/closing cover), as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 14, line 21 to page 15, line 4.

Still further, claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11 and 13-16 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,833,380 ("Hosomi

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et al"), and claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Hosomi et al and USP 6,447,187 ("Robinson"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 9, the second unit is directly attached to the second casing member (opening/closing cover). With this structure, the weight of the printer of the present invention is decreased as compared to conventional receipt printers because a frame for the printer is unnecessary. By contrast, conventional receipt printers require a frame such as the turning frame 110 which extends from support shaft 111 to a rotary cutter 107 as shown in Fig. 13 (see also the Background of the Invention at page 4, lines 6-12 of the specification of the present application).

However, the cover case of a receipt printer (second casing member or opening/closing cover) typically does not have a high rigidity. Therefore, fixing the second unit directly to the second casing member (opening/closing cover) can cause imprecision in the matching of the first unit to the second unit. Nevertheless, according to the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 9 this problem is avoided, because the second unit is directly attached to the second casing member (opening/closing

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cover) so as to be movable by a predetermined amount with respect to the second casing member (opening/closing cover), and because a connecting mechanism is provided which removably connects the second unit to the first unit by position setting the first unit and the second unit.

It is respectfully submitted that Hosomi et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above-described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1 and 9, and claims 3, 5-8, 11 and 13-16 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Hosomi et al, taken singly or in combination with Robinson, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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